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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,934	11/21/2003	Hiroshi Abe	42530-6200	4003
21611	7590	10/11/2007	EXAMINER	
SNELL & WILMER LLP (OC) 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626				BEAUCHAINE, MARK J
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3653				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/719,934	ABE ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Mark J. Beauchaine	3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 21-24, 27, 28 and 30-41 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 21-24, 27, 28 and 30-37 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 38-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "releasable locking member" (line 2) lacks sufficient antecedent bases.

The following is a partial quotation of the forth paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

[A] claim in dependent form shall contain a reference to a claim previously set forth and then specify a further limitation of the subject matter claimed.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, forth paragraph, as failing to contain a reference to a previously set forth claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 38 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number US 6,656,034 B2 by Rasmussen et al ("Rasmussen") in view of Patent Number 3,662,770 by Cohen ("Cohen") in view of Patent Number 4,725,027 by Bekenich ("Bekenich"). The coin dispensing apparatus disclosed by Rasmussen comprises bulk coin storage hopper 12, a selector unit for removing individual coins from said hopper (see column 2, lines 20-27), removable coin elevator unit 14 that includes hopper side guiding unit 18 and dispensing side guiding unit 16 that is removably attached to said hopper side guiding unit (see Figures 2 and 3).

Said dispensing side guiding unit is movable from a first dispensing mode of operation in which it is locked by fixing unit 22 (see Figure 4), to a second mode of operation that is in a different alignment from the first. Said fixing unit includes a first member with a releasable locking unit 22a (see Figure 5) that is permanently mounted above said selector unit, and a second member that has a locking member (*i.e.*, the element shrouding aperture 22b) and is complementary to locking unit 22a. Said second member enables a releasable fastening of the dispensing side guiding unit in said second mode of operation to the top of the apparatus body. Still further, Rasmussen discloses switching member 26 for detecting when said dispensing side

Art Unit: 3653

guide unit is in a second mode of operation and stops power to said apparatus when in said second mode of operation (see Figure 5 and column 3, lines 29-64).

Rasmussen further discloses switching unit 26 for detecting when said dispensing side guiding unit is in a second mode of operation and stops power to a selector unit motor when said guiding unit is in the second mode of operation (see Figures 5 and 6, and column 3, lines 29-64).

Rasmussen fails to disclose a handle member. Cohen teaches a coin dispensing apparatus comprising a handle attached to the top of body 2 of the apparatus (see Figures 1 and 2) for the purpose of transporting said apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the handle/body configuration of Cohen into the apparatus of Rasmussen for the purpose of transporting said apparatus.

Rasmussen is silent as to the particular locking operation (*i.e.*, automatic or not automatic) of said fixing unit. Although the protruding end of mating locking unit 22a is squared (see Figure 5), the rounded end of the mating element shrouding aperture 22b of Rasmussen implies that the locking operation of said two mating elements does not require the knob of said fixing unit 22 to be retracted by hand operation. Furthermore, Bekenich teaches a fixing unit that comprises mating elements 25 and 35 (see Figure 4) and automatically locks structural elements 16 and 17 together. Both mating elements 25 and 35 of Bekenich comprise angled flat surfaces which permit element 35 to retract against the force of compression spring 42 for the purpose of automatically locking two separate structural elements together. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

Art Unit: 3653

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the fixing unit of Bekenich into the apparatus of Rasmussen for the purpose of automatically locking two separate structural elements of the apparatus.

Claims 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rasmussen in view of Cohen in view of Bekenich as applied to claim 38 above, and further in view of Patent Number 4,943,258 by Abe ("Abe"). Rasmussen/Cohen/Bekenich fails to disclose a movable stopper member. Abe teaches a coin dispensing apparatus comprising housing member 21 containing movable stopper member/ball 20 for securing coins guiding unit 6 for the purpose of preventing coins from returning downward along said guiding unit when said apparatus is not in operation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the stopping member of Abe into the apparatus of Rasmussen/Cohen/Bekenich for the purpose of preventing coins from returning downward along said guiding unit when said apparatus is not in operation.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 21-24, 27 and 30-37 are allowed.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3653

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mjb



PATRICK MACKEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600